opening of large number of sick and closed industries in West Bengal ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The Central Government have laid down guidelines for tackling the problem of industrial sickness in October, 1981. All cases of sick units, including those relating to West Bengal are dealt with in accordance with these guidelines.

Compensation to the Bhopal gas tragedy victims

150. SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the courts in the United States decided on any specific amounts to be paid by the Union Carbide Company as compensation for the victims of the Bhopal Gas disaster ;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government of India thereto ;

(c) whether Government of India has of its own, provided any compensation so far to the people affected by the above disaster; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir,.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) While no cash compensation has been provided by the Government of India to the people affected by the Bhopal Gas Disaster ex-gratia releif of Rs. 10,000/- to the next of kin of each of the dead persons and Rs. 15,00/- to each affected family having income of Rs. 5,00/- or less has been provided by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

New sugar and alcohol policy

151. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the representatives of distillers and alcohol based industries regarding the new sugar and alcohol policy being framed ;

(b) if so, what are the details of the said memorandum ;

(c) whether Government propose to invite them for a discussion on the said new policy ; and

(d) if the answer to part (e) above be in the negative what are the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has received a combined representation dated the 29th May, 1986, from All India Alcohol Based Industries Development Association and All India Distillers Association advancing arguments against de-control/ partial decontrol of molases.

(c) and (d) Formulation of a new policy in this regard will, no doubt, involve consideration of all relevant issues.

Debate on new drug policy

152. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the draft of the new Drug Policy is proposed to be circu-

lated for eliciting public opinion; and

(b) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Unsatisfactory telephone system in Bhopal

153. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the *Times of India* dated the 24th June, 1986 to the effect that 150 MLAs had sent a memorandum to the Union Minister for Communications against the chaotic telephonic system of Bhopal ;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard and what steps have been taken so far to improve the working of telephone systems in Bhopal ;

(c) whether similar reports have been received from other cities ; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information was available even earlier from performance reports, Officers from Directorate visited Bhopal. Deficiencies were identified, remedial measures have been taken to speed up upgradation of the system by deputing additional technician and Assistant Engineer, and also initiating action against some delinquents.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply at (c) above.

Indian Telephone Industry, Rae Bareli

154. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce the latest telecommunication technology at Rae Bareli unit of Indian Telephone Industries ;

(b) if so, whether similar technology has been proposed to be introduced in other units of the ITI; if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether the production of equipment and feeding components at the cross bar factory at Rae Bareli is proposed to be discontinued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) No Sir, at present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for introduction of latest telecommunication technology at Rae Bareli Unit of Indian Telephone Industries.

(c) No, Sir.

Heads of public sector drug units

155. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several chiefs of the public sector drug and pharmaceuticals units have either